[24th January 1933

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The steps to be taken in each case should be considered on its merits."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—" In view of the fact that there were a large number of petitions alleging irregularities, may I ask if the hon. the Chief Minister proposes to take some action in the matter?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I cannot answer a general question like that. If specific complaints are received, they will be investigated."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—" Is the hon. Chief Minister satisfied that the conduct of local board elections all over the Presidency has been quite satisfactory?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I cannot say that they have been quite satisfactory throughout. But Government did whatever lay in their power to have them conducted satisfactorily."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask whether Government contemplate issuing a report about the conduct of local board elections in this Presidency after the same is completed?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" There is no intention of doing so at present. If it is considered desirable, the Government will consider the matter."

Extension of the date fixed for the publication of the final electoral roll of the taluk boards in the Kistna district.

* 467 *Q.*—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the period for the publication of the final electoral roll of the taluk boards in the Kistna district has been extended from 4th December 1932 to 22nd December 1932; and

(*b*) if so, why this extension was made in the Kistna district?

A.—(*a*) The date of publication of the final electoral roll of the taluk boards in the Kistna district has been last postponed to the 28th February 1933.

(*b*) A change in the holder of the office of District Election Officer and the receipt of about 80,000 claims for and objections to inclusion in the electoral registers of taluks except Gudivada contribute to the delay in the publication of the final electoral roll. Some twenty to thirty thousand claims and objections are also expected to be filed in the Gudivada taluk.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" Will the hon. the Chief Minister state the reasons which necessitated the Government to postpone the publication of the final electoral roll?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The reasons are given in the answer to the question."

24th January 1933]

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know whether the hon. the Chief Minister will be pleased to state as to who will have to bear the cost of the republication of these electoral rolls, whether it is the Government or the taluk boards? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The taluk boards."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Is it suggested that the previous Election Officer omitted the names of 80,000 voters in the electoral rolls? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It was no case of omission, but that there were 80,000 claims for and objection to inclusion in the rolls. In all these cases, the claims and objections have to be examined so that the proper names may be entered in the registers."

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi:—" Is it not that the large number of claims and objections was due to the extension of the period for receipt of objections? Some three extensions have been made within a period of one month."

The hon. the President:—" The hon. Member will please sit down to receive an answer."

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Extensions first of all were made at the request of one party or the other. After a large number of claims and objections were received, it was found necessary to extend the date, as each application has to be looked into on its merits and notices given to the parties."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know who the parties concerned are who made representations to Government? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The Inspector reports that one instance is the Raja of Mirzapuram. Another is the Raja of Chellapalli. There were others also."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" On what grounds did they apply for extension? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" They wanted time to submit claims and objections."

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi:—" Has such extension been made in any other district than Kistna? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" Might have been made. I cannot answer it offhand."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Were the applications of the Raja of Chellapalli and the Raja of Mirzapuram made in a representative capacity? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" They made their representations to the Inspector of Local Boards, and the Government is responsible for the extensions so given."

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi:—" Were the applications made only to ask for extension? "

[24th January 1933

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I will just read the report of the Inspector: 'It will further be noted in this connexion that the previous hon. Member ordered that no election proceedings could be held during the Legislative Council sessions or when the Tanjore Conference took place. In compliance with this order, and in view of the fact that the leading men of the Kistna district would be absent, the dates for the receipt of the presentation of claims and objections were extended. The Raja of Mirzapuram wanted slight adjustment, and the Raja of Chellapalli represented to the Inspector that there should be a slight adjournment of the dates fixed for the disposal of claims and objections'."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know what the *locus standi* of these gentlemen is with reference to these elections?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I presume they represent their parties in the local boards."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Do the Government recognize the existence of such parties in the local boards?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The Government have to take into consideration the several interests."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know whether the District Board of Kistna or the taluk boards concerned, did at any time, ask the Government to postpone the dates?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" No, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I ask whether there were any representations from the members of the public other than those quoted by the hon. Minister?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I cannot say offhand. I must ascertain it from the Inspector."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I ask whether the receipt of claims and objections was peculiar to this district alone or was it so in the case of other districts also?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I think there was a large number of claims and objections in this district more than any other district."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" What has the Legislative Council session or the Tanjore Conference to do with these elections in the Kistna district?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I cannot answer the question offhand. I want notice to look into the papers."

Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi:—" In addition to Kistna District Election Officer, will the election officers of Guntur and Ellore be ordered to dispose of these applications?"

24th January 1933]

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" The progress done by the present Election Officer in the matter of disposals will be examined, and if Government are not satisfied with the progress, additional staff will be appointed."

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI :—" At the rate of the present disposals, it will take three or four months to finish the work?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" When the Government receive the report, the matter will be considered to expedite disposals."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Will the Government consider whether it is not desirable to appoint another Election Officer instead of postponing dates?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have already answered the question."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" May I know whether the District Board of Kistna or the taluk boards concerned were ever consulted as to the desirability of postponing the dates already fixed? If so, what was their reply?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I think it is unnecessary to consult them with reference to the disposal of claims and objections. Sufficient time should be allowed for the disposal of those matters."

Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM PANTULU :—" May I know if the Government have cancelled the order already passed appointing an additional election officer for Guntur?" 11-15 a.m.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" There cannot be any cross-examination."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know what the peculiar circumstances of the Kistna district were which necessitated the postponement of election?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have already answered the question. There were a large number of claims and petitions received regarding the preparation of the electoral rolls."

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI :—" May I know when the elections will be held?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" After the claims and objections have been disposed of, a date will be fixed; but I am afraid I am now unable to give the exact date."

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI :—" Supposing it becomes necessary to postpone elections for six or seven months, will the hon. Minister appoint an additional Election Officer?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I presume the elections will be over in a month or two."

[24th January 1933

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" When the Government thought fit to take cognizance of representations made by private individuals, may I know what prevented them from consulting the district board concerned? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" District boards are in no case consulted in regard to the postponement of elections."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know if it is a fact that until the date was extended, there was no claim petition received? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" As stated in the report I read out, at the request of both parties the date has been extended. First the date for filing claims was extended and afterwards, when a large number of claims were received, it was found necessary to extend the time."

Postponement of the elections to the local boards in the Kistna district.

* 468 *Q.*—Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Kistna is the only district in which elections to the local boards are not yet held;

(*b*) whether in respect of the Kistna district local boards elections, the period for receiving claims and objections has been extended from 15th November 1932 to 1st December 1932 and again to 10th December 1932, and the period for publication of final roll of voters has been extended from 4th December 1932 to 22nd December 1932, and then to 3rd January 1933 and again to 10th January 1933; and

(*c*) why so many extensions have been made ?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The period for publication of claims and objections has been last extended up to 10th January 1933 and that for the publication of the final electoral roll up to the 28th February 1933.

(*c*) A change of the District Election Officer and the receipt of about 80,000 claims for and objections to the inclusion in the electoral registers of taluks (except Gudivada) contribute to the delay in the publication of the final roll. Some twenty to thirty thousand claims and objections are also expected to be filed in the Gudivada taluk.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know if any claims and petitions were received before the first extension of the date? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I had not asked for that information in the report. I presume that some claims might have been received before the first extension. Owing to the large number of claims and objections the parties wanted to present, they asked for extension."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" In view of the large number of claims filed and in view of the fact that the date has been fixed as